

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5774

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to publish a strategic plan for long-term care, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 12, 2006

Ms. HARRIS (for herself and Mrs. MYRICK) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to publish a strategic plan for long-term care, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4       Congress makes the following findings:

5               (1) The number of aging veterans in the United  
6       States is increasing rapidly, with the number of vet-  
7       erans 85 years old and older expected to increase  
8       from approximately 870,000 to 1,300,000 during  
9       the next 10 years.

1           (2) This group of veterans will have a signifi-  
2           cant need for nursing home care and will require a  
3           variety of noninstitutional long-term care services.

4           (3) The Department of Veterans Affairs is  
5           struggling to meet its current obligations and is ill  
6           prepared to meet the long-term care needs of Amer-  
7           ica's aging veteran population.

8           (4) Long-term care was not included in the  
9           Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services  
10          (CARES) process because of a lack of forecasts and  
11          policies needed to project and plan to meet future  
12          demands for long-term care.

13          (5) The Department of Veterans Affairs has  
14          failed to comply with the CARES Commission's  
15          2003 recommendation to develop a long-term care  
16          strategic plan, which failure has had a detrimental  
17          effect on the welfare of veterans in need of such  
18          care.

19 **SEC. 2. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR LONG-TERM CARE.**

20          (a) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 180 days after the  
21          date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-  
22          erans Affairs shall publish a strategic plan for long-term  
23          care.

24          (b) CONTENTS.—The plan published under sub-  
25          section (a) shall—

1 (1) comply with the recommendations of the  
2 CARES Commission;

3 (2) contain policies and strategies for—

4 (A) the delivery of care in domiciliaries,  
5 residential treatment facilities, and nursing  
6 homes and for seriously mentally ill veterans;

7 (B) maximizing the use of State veterans  
8 homes;

9 (C) locating domiciliary units as close to  
10 patient populations as feasible; and

11 (D) identifying freestanding nursing homes  
12 as an acceptable care model;

13 (3) include data on—

14 (A) the care of catastrophically disabled  
15 veterans; and

16 (B) the geographic distribution of cata-  
17 strophically disabled veterans;

18 (4) address the spectrum of noninstitutional  
19 long-term care options, including—

20 (A) respite care;

21 (B) home-based primary care;

22 (C) geriatric evaluation;

23 (D) adult day health care;

24 (E) skilled home health care; and

25 (F) community residential care; and

1           (5) provide—

2                   (A) cost and quality comparison analyses  
3 of all the different levels of care;

4                   (B) detailed information about geographic  
5 distribution of services and gaps in care; and

6                   (C) specific plans for working with Medi-  
7 care, Medicaid, and private insurance compa-  
8 nies to expand care.

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